and these food cards continue to exist. An appeal was made to the general public to surrender such cards. The Administration has also drawn a plan to conduct checking of food cards with Fair Price Shops selected at random. Under this plan, over 62000 food cards have been checked and in more than 14,600 cases, persons have not been found residing at the addresses given in the food cards. In such cases, the supply of specified food articles was stopped forthwith.

Establishment of Minorities Development Banks/Corporations in States/Union Territories

586. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minorities development banks/corporations have been established in a number of States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the names of such States/Union Territories;

(c) whether Government also propose to establish such a bank/corporation under the Central Government in pursuance of Prime Minister's 15-point programme for the welfare of the minorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Uttar Pradesh
(ii) Bihar
(iii) Karnataka
(iv) Andhra Pradesh
(v) Gujarat
(vi) Assam

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. The Banking System and financial institutions are adequate to look after the credit needs in all deserving cases including those of Minorities.

Survey conducted for new copper mines in Madhya Pradesh

587. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of copper is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the annual demand of copper;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted for the exploration of new copper mines in the country and particularly in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The estimated demand of copper since 1986-87 is indicated below:—

Unit: Tonnes

Year	Assessed demand
1986-87	1,04,000
1987-88	1,28,000
1988-89	1,35000
1989-90 (Projection)	1,35,000

(c) and (d) During the last three years, Geological Survey of India (GSI) carried out exploration for copper at various base metal fields in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Also during the last three years, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has carried out detailed exploration of known copper deposits in the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and at Malanjkhand in Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh.

As per information furnished by the survey and exploration agencies, the estimated reserve of Malanjkhand deposit is 84.83 million tonnes of ore with 1.39 per cent copper, 125 million tonnes of submarginal resource with 0.88 per cent copper and 213 million tonnes of prospective resource with 1.03 per cent copper, totalling to about 423 million tonnes of copper ore.